



Rhode Island's Career Resource Network

# News Corner

Volume 4, No.2

Summer 2005

*Support for Academic and Career Counseling Programs*



Those of us who are concerned with helping students or clients plan their career are faced with a “quiet crisis.” We have seen evidence of it, but most of us are not aware of the major impact it may have on our lives and on our students/clients. The developing crisis was described by Thomas Friedman in a column, *It's a Flat World, After All*, in the April 3 *New York Times*.

Our country has faced political and economic crises in the past and survived, often stronger than before. The Civil War and the Great Depression are examples. Mr. Friedman visited the Indian high-tech capital, Bangalore, while working on a documentary about outsourcing. What he also found was that globalization (which we have all heard about) has entered a whole new phase (the impact of which we do not yet fully realize). The world, which Columbus proved was round (geographically), is now flat (functionally).

Mr. Friedman points out that less expensive and widely available computers, together with rapid developments in digital communication (the Internet, email), unleashed an explosion of software, including search engines. The result has been that information can be rearranged, distributed, produced, and assembled, providing a new freedom in the way we do work, especially intellectual work. We see signs of this in our homes, schools, and offices every day.

Some other countries, like India and China, have been making great strides in the development of their education systems, which are producing large numbers of well-trained scientists and engineers. These countries also have large numbers of young persons who, until recently, had to leave their countries to take advantage of opportunities available in the west. Now they can tap into modern technology and accomplish much without leaving home. This is evident in the movement of intellectual work from the United States to India, where, for example, accountants can provide their services from the other side of the world almost as easily as if they were here. It is increasingly common for workers all over the world to work as a team as if they were in the same room.

At the same time the economies and political systems of Eastern Europe and Asia have opened up, allowing their people to take advantage of the new opportunities.

How these events will change our lives over time remains to be seen, but it is clear that they will do so. “When it comes to responding to the challenges of the flat world, there is no help line we can call. We have to dig into ourselves. We in America have all the basic economic and educational tools to do that. But we have not been improving those tools as much as we should.” Shirley Ann Jackson, the 2004 president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute refers to this dilemma “as a ‘quiet crisis’ – one that is slowly eating away at America’s scientific and engineering base.”

Mr. Friedman concludes, “We need to get going immediately.”

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**“It takes 15 years to train a good engineer,  
because, ladies and gentlemen,  
this really is rocket science.”**

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So parents, throw away the Game Boy, turn off the television and get your kids to work. There is no sugar-coating this: in a flat world, every individual is going to have to run a little faster if he or she wants to advance his or her standard of living.”

Our challenge is to transmit this message to our students/clients and help them understand how to use this information in the planning of their careers.



The grant which funds the RI Career Resource Network is slightly less for the coming year, while the costs associated with printing materials, such as the CRN *News Corner*, have been going up. Therefore, the CRN *News Corner* will no longer be printed and mailed. If you do not already receive an email announcement of the availability of each edition, and would like to receive a notice, please send your email address to [crn@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:crn@dlt.state.ri.us).

You may also access the current and all back issues of the *News Corner* on the CRN web site, [www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/corner.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/corner.htm).



### Training schedule:

July 11 Real Times/Real Life (adults)

August 15 The Real Game (grades 7-8)

Information and registration - [www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/real/training.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/real/training.htm).

**Short videos** (about two minutes) promoting the Real Game Series are now available. They consist of segments of the 30-minute video which has been used in Real Game facilitator training. Each video is for a specific audience: administrators, adult educators, business, ESL, facilitators, introduction to Real Game (2 videos), middle school, parents, and postsecondary. Contact the CRN for availability.

**Facilitator Kits:** The CRN has one Make It Real (grades 6-7) facilitator kit and one The Real Game (grades 7-8) facilitator kit which were obtained several months ago and never used. They are available on first-come-first-served basis for the original price of \$220 each (cost has recently been increased to \$295). Contact the CRN by phone or email if you are interested.

## Computer-Assisted Career Guidance

Useful free resources are available from Bridges Transitions Co. whether or not you are a licensed user of one of their products. Check their web site for the free email newsletter for career educators, *Career Pro News*, *Career Parent Magazine*, with three editions for parents of students of different ages, and *Dear Bridget*, a periodic newsletter with suggestions on maximizing value from Bridges products.

### Upcoming Events...

July 11, 2005 Real Times/Real Life Facilitator Training

August 15, 2005 The Real Game Facilitator Training

[www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/real/training.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/real/training.htm)

August 2-5, 2005 RISCA Summer Institute

[www.rischoolcounselor.org](http://www.rischoolcounselor.org)

September 14, 2005 Facilitating Career Development,

First meeting - [www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/cdf.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/cdf.htm)

October 21, 2005 Improved Career Decision-Making

November 18, 2005 Improved Career Decision-Making

December 9, 2005 Improved Career Decision-Making

[www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/icdm.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/icdm.htm)

### Occupational Focus:

## Flavorist



Everyone wants to be in an interesting occupation, and counselors and advisors urge their students and clients to “get a job you love.” Occupation titles may not sound exciting until one looks at some of the subtle possibilities. Consider Chemist, for example. Many persons probably don’t think of this as a particularly interesting occupation. Then consider Flavorist. That occupation title is more likely to catch one’s attention. The Occupational Outlook Quarterly winter edition has an article describing Flavorist. This person is a specialized and highly trained chemist who blends “aroma chemicals, essential oils, botanical extracts, and essences to create natural and artificial flavorings for a variety of foods, beverages, and other products.”

Flavorists are likely to work for companies which specialize in this field, and sell the results to food, beverage, or other manufacturers. After earning a bachelor’s degree in chemistry or a related discipline, entry-level flavorists spend several years in training, learning the basics of the flavor industry and the government regulations that apply to flavoring agents. After about seven year’s experience and two examinations, a flavorist can earn certification by the Society of Flavor Chemists.

This extensive training is likely to pay off. “There are no reliable earnings data for flavor chemists, but industry sources suggest that median salaries are well above the \$54,960 that the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reported for chemists in 2003.” Since there are few, if any, flavorist jobs available in Rhode Island, a person interested in this occupation must consider relocating.

For more information check the Flavorist article at <http://stats.bls.gov/opub/ooq/yawhat.htm>

Flavorist is an example of a specialty within a larger occupation. **When exploring occupations as part of career planning, one would be wise to be alert for other examples of interesting specialties.**





The CRN receives dozens of news briefs of interest to career educators each week. Check the CRN web site for weekly Career Development News. [www.dlt.ri.gov/crn](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/crn)

**E-Newsletter for Non-Profit Agencies**, one of the newsiest newsletters around, is distributed weekly by the Knowledge Information Exchange. Although oriented to nonprofits, there are items of interest to educators. A recent issue included announcements related to assistive technology, grants, training opportunities, scholarships, and more. To subscribe, send an email to [executivedirector@kec.necoxmail.net](mailto:executivedirector@kec.necoxmail.net). Formerly a free service, beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> a fee of \$24 per year is charged to help meet costs of preparation.

**Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) certification** was awarded to thirteen persons, and one received provisional certification after taking the course offered last fall by the Career Resource Network.

**"Think You Don't Need an Education"** poster and brochure have been updated with 2004/2003 data and are now available. Check the CRN web site; request in reasonable numbers from [crn@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:crn@dlt.state.ri.us).

**A Call to Action: Transforming High School for All Youth**, from the National High School Alliance, offers principles to be used by policymakers, educators, parents, and community leaders. It recommends the elimination of academic tracking, more performance-based assessments, ongoing professional development, students taking on more leadership roles in their communities, clearly defined expectations for both students and educators, preparing all youth for college and careers, and providing students with individualized guidance, information and resources on career pathways.

[www.hsalliance.org](http://www.hsalliance.org)

**Life after High School: Young People Talk about their Hopes and Prospects.** The survey from Public Agenda indicates that most young people aspire to postsecondary education, but the requisite academic preparation, mentoring, and guidance appears to be missing, according to the over 1,300 youth interviewed. Obstacles to higher education include the shortage of high school counselors and financial pressures that affect students of color disproportionately.

[http://www.publicagenda.org/research/research\\_reports\\_details.cfm?list=31](http://www.publicagenda.org/research/research_reports_details.cfm?list=31)

**Highlights from the 2003 International Adult Literacy and Lifeskills Survey (ALL)** show that America's adults performed worse than their counterparts in Bermuda, Norway, and Switzerland, but better than those in Italy. There was no measurable difference between the performance of Canadian and US adults. ALL reports on the literacy and numeracy skills of adults ages 16-65 in six countries and the relationship of those skills to economic, social, and personal characteristics. In the United States, men scored 15 points higher than women on the literacy scale. White US adults outscored Black, Hispanic, and other adults in both literacy and numeracy. There was no measurable difference between the performance of Blacks and Hispanics in literacy or numeracy.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005117>

**The 411 on Disability Disclosure: A Workbook for Youth with Disabilities**, is designed for youth and adults working with them to learn about disability disclosure. It will help young people make informed decisions about whether or not to disclose their disability and understand how that decision may impact their education, employment, and social lives. [www.ncwd-youth.info/resources\\_&\\_Publications/411.html](http://www.ncwd-youth.info/resources_&_Publications/411.html)

**Saludos Hispanos**, a web site for bilingual professionals, provides a great place to find or post a resume. There is a plethora of job-hunting articles, profiles of mentors such as Carlos Santana, career information, company profiles, scholarships and internships. [www.saludos.com](http://www.saludos.com)

**Schoolmatters.com**, a new web site of the National Education Data Partnership provides an illustrated report on the quality of educational services of states, districts, and individual schools. Prepared by Standard & Poor's, the site is funded by The Broad Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Partnership includes the Council of Chief State School Officers, Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services, Achieve, Inc., and the CELT Corporation. [www.schoolmatters.com](http://www.schoolmatters.com)





A Web Site Worth Surfing:

[www.dlt.ri.gov/crn](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/crn)



RI's Career Resource Network recently launched its redesigned web site, which is more comprehensive and easier to use.

The home page includes a calendar of coming events of interest to career educators, a Career Development News column, and a horizontal menu with selections for Career Educators, Students, and Parents, as well as "About CRN," "Contact CRN," and "Return to LMI."

The Career Development News column will change each week, making it similar to an on-line magazine. The CRN receives dozens of newsworthy items each week, and will select those of greatest interest to the variety of career educators who are likely to visit this site.

Clicking on Career Educators, Students, or Parents will produce a dropdown menu providing selections appropriate for that particular group. The full text of most CRN publications, announcements of training, and links to a wide variety of other quality web sites are included in the selections..

As with most other web sites, this one is a "work in progress," and will be continuously expanded and improved. Suggestions from users are welcome.

**Do you have comments or suggestions on the contents of our CRN News Corner? Do you have information you'd like us to publish? If so, please contact us at:**

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